Sharing of cost of rail projects by States

1802. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many States have urged Railways to go ahead with rail projects as they have agreed to share cost of these projects;

(b) if so, whether project like gauge conversion, laying new tracks or doubling of tracks would be done soon in the States which have readily agreed to share part of cost;

(c) if so, whether her Ministry is likely to go ahead with these projects; and

(d) the total cost to be involved and the States that have agreed to share the cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (d) State Governments which have agreed to share cost of the projects include States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. The sharing of cost of the projects by State Governments would expedite the implementation due to availability of additional funds. Many of the projects are already ongoing. The new proposals are also considered on merits. The total cost of projects where sharing has been agreed by State Governments is about Rs. 10920 crore.

Survey of gauge conversion in Rajasthan

1803. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of new proposals for gauge conversion in Rajasthan which have been included in the Rail Budget 2009-10 for conducting survey work;

(b) the time-frame fixed up by her Ministry for the survey of above gauge conversion works; and

(c) after completion of survey what is the criteria for sanctioning these new gauge conversion works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) and (b) No new proposals for gauge conversion in the State of Rajasthan have been included the Rail Budget 2009-10 for conducting survey work.

(c) Does not arise. However, the policy adopted for taking up gauge conversion has been as under:

(i) Development of alternative Broad Gauge (BG) routes obviating the need for doubling existing BG lines on these routes.

(ii) Establishment of BG links between stations connected by other BG lines.

(iii) Establishment of BG connection to ports, industrial centers and locations having potential for growth.

(iv) Conversion of lines required on strategic considerations.

(v) Minimizing transshipment and to improve wagon turn around by avoiding delays at transshipment points.

(vi) The conversion of lines is carried out as per the above policy at least cost yet providing a standard of service not lower than what the users were getting on the Metre Gauge (MG).

Policy regarding electrification of tracks

1804. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of her Ministry regarding electrification of railway tracks;

(b) whether it is not proper to have railway tracks electrified to the optimum; and

(c) the total number of proposals for electrification of railway tracks which have been recommended by Government of Rajasthan and the present status of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) Electrification of railway tracks is decided based on traffic volumes, operational necessity and financial viability.

(b) Yes, Sir. It is desirable to electrify rail sections which satisfy the conditions stated at (a) above. In the state of Rajasthan, 600 out of 5683 Route Kilometres (RKMs) are electrified and in the country 18942 out of 63273 RKMs are electrified.

(c) The following proposals for electrification of rail tracks have been recommended by Government of Rajasthan and their present status is as under:-

S.No.	Name of the proposed section(s)	Status
1.	Bina-Kota	Electrification work is in progress and targeted for completion by March 2010.
2.	Jaipur-Sawai Madhopur	Proposal is under consideration.
3.	Ratlam-Neemuch-Chittorgarh	
4.	Delhi-Jaipur-Ahmedabad	For electrification, these sections are not in the priority at present.
5.	Agra-Bharatpur	
6.	Kota-Chittorgarh	
7.	Kandla-Bhatinda	